IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

EXPERIENCES OF A MAN-HUNTER IN POLYNESIA.

THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS. And the Queen lend Labor Trade. A Record of Voyages an Experiences in the Western Pacific from 1875 t 1890. By William T. Wawn, Master Mariner With numerous illustrations by the same. Pp xvi, 440. Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., London Macmillan & Co.

Captain Wawn is manifestly a strong partisan of a traffic which is now a thing of the past in Australasia. He for one-mainly because he made his living by it-saw no harm in carrying the wild islanders from their homes to labor for a term of years on the plantations of Queens-Apparently the majority of his countrymen thought otherwise. Though the term of labor was ostensibly a short one, and though all precautions were supposed to be taken against enforced labor and kidnapping, yet even through Wawn's spectacles we seem to get glimpses of something like the old African siave The argument of this book on the subject might not unjustly be summed up in the awkward excuse of the boy caught in mischief, who declares that he was doing nothing, but that somebody else was outrageously wicked. According to Captain Wawn, the English recruiters for the labor market were as a rule reasonable and moderate men, but the behavior of the French and Germans was a downright scandal. The native laborers had some hope of getting back to their homes from Queensland, but from Samoa-never. Looking a little sharply at the English branch of the traffic, Captain Wawn acknowledges that there were abuses, but as for himself, he was always upright. One might go rounds doubtless of the master mariners of the South Pacific and find that were all as honest as the day their own confession. Naturally the author of this book had little use for missionaries. He and all the rest of those engaged in "labor trade," as it was euphemistically called, found the ministers and teachers on the islands a great obstacle when it came to getting the natives away from their homes. Though the other side is yet to hear from, he certainly seems to have a case against certain individual missionaries whose zeal in a good cause led them But they can afford to ignore his charges, since they have won and the Queensland labor trade is legally dead. The author's as he understands it: it is also a literary curiority worthy of being associated with famous specimens of another age. "To the sugar planters of Queensland," writes Captain Wawn, "who have spent the best years of their lives and millions of money in developing an industry which represents not less than 50 per cent of the total agricultural value of that colony, and which at one time bade fair to eclipse even the great pastoral and mining industries in wealth and importance; to those bold pioneers who have opened up the rich agricultural.districts along the coast, and have been the means of settling thousands of Europeans on the land, and who have done more toward the practical civilization of the cannibal and the savage than all the well-intentioned but narrow-minded enthusiasts of the Southern Pacific; to those good men and true who, after a quarter of a century of hard work and doubtful prosperity, have been basely betrayed, and unscrupulously sacrificed to the greed of the political place-hunter and the howling ignorance which follows in his train-I dedicate this work with much sympathy and re-

The manuscript which Captain Wawn intended for the printer had some vicissitudes. He wrote in the form of a "log." and the narrative was interspersed with a vast deal of argument intended to affect the public judgment on the labor question, which had become a burning one before it was outlawed by the Queens-Government in 1891. No publisher could be obtained for the work while Kanaka controversy, as it was called, was raging. Public opinion in England and perhaps everywhere else in the civilized world is too well determined in the matter of clavery to look with favor on anything that resembles it. Later he tried again, sending his papers by the ill-fated steamship Quetta. By the time he had rewritten the last work the labor controversy in the colony was at an end. The book as printed cal seaman takes delight, as well as a great part practically universal. On the most obscure and work or fear of damage from his multiplier with of the controversial matter. But the comainder is in Captain Wawn's own words. It is not at all a polished piece of literature; but every page of it reeks of the sea, and there is no patch of ocean more pleasant to read about than the vast archipelago of the Southwestern Pacific. The port from which Captain Wawn sailed and to which he returned was Maryhorough, and his successive voyages between the year 1875, when the labor traffic was most prosperous, and 1891, when the law put an end to it, gave him an intimate acquaintance with Islands, islets, atolls and waterways broad and narrow, ir m Papua on the west to the lift group on the east, and from the equator to 30 degrees of south latitude. He was no stranger to the islands at the outset, for he had already spent five years in Samoa and Fiji, sometimes affect as a master or mate, but usually ashore as a trader. He had visited New-Caledonia, the Loyalty Islands, the New-Hebrides, Samoa, Fiji, the Caroline, Marshall and Gilbert groups, and knew enough nothing; for the islanders had a bad practice then of killing almost any person they could entrap merely for the purpose of eating him. In fact Captain Wawn's introduction to the Queensland labor trade was associated in his own mind with a calamity of just this sort, in which the master and nearly all the crew of a brig, the James Birnle, perished at the hands of the natives of the Lord Howe Islands. The captain's idea of savage character, says the author contemptuously, "appears to have been founded on the mistake that if you treat a savage kindly he will therefore behave well to you." The unfortunate skipper is said to have gone to the length of forbidding his men to carry firearms. As the James Birnle was not what was called a labor vessel, but was in quest of trepang, the marine slug, which when cured is deemed a delicacy in China, and as no laborers for Queensland had ever been "recruited" in the Lord on us for all South Sea Island outrages."

coastwise trade from Sidney; and now, in addition to other repairs, it was necessary to put in stowing away the Islanders collected for the labor market. On this deck "two long shelves or bunks, six feet wide, extended the whole length of the hold as sleeping quarters for the expected recruits. A bulkhead of four-inch wooddoubtless had much to do with the number of she was allowed to carry-not more than 109 Polynesian laborers in addition to the I have no recollection of her ever looking much their own living, and they were not slow to ship's company. In this vessel Captain Wawn older made eight voyages after laborers and thirteen

Tanna man (in the New Hebrides) load one with stalrcase of our house in Savile Row (afterward powder enough for three charges, and, ball on lady, except my mother, among the group of re top, fire it off, and when the gun kicked him markable men, politicians, and authors of the first buy that gun and think he had the best of the light of the great hall lamp shone on the waving long while. N. Y. Evening Post. bargain by a long way," In the old days a masses of her halr, and the black velvet fell in tomahawk, a knife, a handful of heads, half a pound of tobacco, a few pipes and a couple of yards of calleo reconciled the friends of a wouldbe laborer to his departure. But within a few years guns also began to be in demand. The islanders looked at the bargain from a point of little fairy tale by Charles Nodler. view which a white man had to study narrowly in order to understand their way of thinking. Each tribe was a communal organism in which the individual was the servant of the whole body. In a group of forty or fifty warriors subject to constant strife with other tribes every man was of value. The objects of trade brought by the whites were never supposed to belong to the man who chore to work in Queensland. They were given to the tribe in order that the man firearms spread the natives discovered that every extra musket helped to make up the loss of a man. Even a returned workman, after his service of three years or more in the colony, called nothing his own that he carried back to his home. He ex- in the course of their frequent walks my friend pended all the money he had carned in the gave a full description of his life and all the hardthings which are useful or agreeable to the islanders, and when he was put ashore with his ever anything particularly struck Dickens he used box his friends instantly seized the latter and to slap his thigh." divided its contents among themselves. To buy A Scotch member of Parliament has fust brought a man was to give the chief or the commune a lout a new translation of "Nathan the Wise." present large enough to insure his release from home. To steal him was to take him with his own consent or not, without the usual presents to the tribe. Captain Wawn acknowledges that man-stealing was not unknown, but he insists A STUDY OF THE ORIGINS OF LITERARY was long and as tender-hearted as children that not all stealing so-called by the natives was such in the minds of Europeans accustomed to

individual rights as against those of the com-

munity.

Captain Wawn's ethnology is simplicity itself. He distinguishes three races in the South Paand "kinky" wool; the Malay, brown in color, with straight black hair; and the true Polynesian, with brown skin and "frizzly" hair. But tions would be practically endless. The inhabi- or family puans of the the Loyalty group were deemed the rule propose as well as the Omidas. The notion hest material that could be found for sailors and durance. Captain Wawn does not lay their de- one. The purchasers must guard against each oil the losses in only one way. With more vividness | would be devold of efficacy. is the savage-"into a cage, so to speak, bers of them are purely personal where he has simply pined away, becoming a maker might adopt without change the "But, alas?" he adds, "instead of the plucky savages their fathers used to be, I found these fellows nervous and easily frightened. Luckily for fame to pull well instinctively when running away. If ing or shining, does not please everybody I had been obliged to fight, they would have been dently meant that people could take or of no use at all." In his opinion it was different | verses as they liked, but that they must a with the tribesmen taken to work on the Queensthat in which he was born, made something bet- Theognis only threatened vices as well as the virtues which he learned from literature. The passage from Theognis is of civilization, but there was a time, not so long stepped on his native shore. But the habit of worthy is the spread of South Sea English among mere renown anaecompanied by the cold native forms, but it is comprehensible, and it is thing more than the hope of

certain to be avenged on the next comers. In to the matter. But Plate was a rich man as faings certain to be avenged on the next comers. In most cases the islanders were ready for a skirmish at any moment. This was as true in times of spears and poisoned arrows as it was later, when firearms came into general use. The book is have been slaw. Plate and Aristotle could affect it. casion Captain Wawn and his party escaped an increase of coprists, and of those who low without injury because the ravages, who were and sold books as a means of flyellhood. That armed with Enfield rifles, thought that raising the hind-sights caused the guns to shoot harder.

On another the lavages, who were and some as a means of livelihood. That all private devices of this kind were slow in the Helician world is shown by the fact that the Alexandrian Measure. the hind-sights caused the guns to shoot harder.
On another occasion he got off with two bullet wounds and several thrusts with native spears.

Things must have improved greatly in Roman control of the The attack in this case was to revenge the death of a tribesman. Merely wanton murder of white nam, boasts that his verses are read in Britain

great chief at Port Hunter, Duke of York Island, the flesh of white men and of Papuans. It was is here that the change from Greek to Roman on the day after a cannibal feast, when I and | methods is most marked. The whole effort of the others had witnessed the assimilation of an un- Ptolemies was to secure a monopoly of book manu-

"'Man o' bush very good,' said he. 'Man Sydney no good; too much salt."

"By 'salt' I suppose he meant 'rank." White men eat so much meat that their flesh cannot taste well, I conclude."

LITERARY NOTES.

in other vessels. When he began his visits to the islands for "recruits" the natives did not often demand firearms. A little later nothing would satisfy them but the antique "Brown of the principal foundation of the principal Mr. Warburton (one of the principal founders of the that Mr. Putnam has another edition of his inter-

beauty. They knew that the old muskets men- wear black velvet, then seldom adopted by untioned would bear a big charge. "I have seen a married ladies. I can see her descending the great over on his back, jump up again and shout 'Re- | Hterary rank. She would talk and laugh softly, and | massau! Remassau! Good! Good! He would look up into my father's face respectfully, while the

> It has just been remembered that the odd title which Mr. Du Mourier has given to his new novel and its heroine has been used before. "Trilby" is the name borne by a French classic-a charming

Tenderly musical is the bit of verse on the winter robin which Mr. T. B. Aldrich contributes current number of "Harper's Weekly."

Wind and rain and bitter chill, Snow and sleet-hung branches, still The robin stays.

The boy named Brooks who first told Dickens about the Yerkshire schools is now a man of eighty years, living in Newcastle, A correspondent of "The Athenaeum" says: "He is a native of either Chatham or Rochester, and when a lad was sent by his parents to one of the Bowes schools. After being there for some time he returned to Chatham, where he used to meet Dickens, and 'chummed' with him. ships the boys had to undergo at the school. When-

THE ANCIENT BOOK TRADE

PROPERTY.

AUTHORS AND THEIR PUBLIC IN ANCIENT TIMES A Sketch of Literary Conditions and of the President with the Public of the cury President

races have been in contact with each other for Miss Fletcher has noticed among the Onesha In dedication is not merely a statement of the case tants of some islands were prized as workmen a recognition of property right in words and sounds But the inhabitants of Bellona Island, has found among them rodimentary ideas of literary though large and well-made men, turned out to ownership. The protection of the savage song corfects to the missionaries, but he cites Aneiteum
Island as one wholly Christianized, where the
population is steadily decreasing. As war has population is steadily decreasing. As war has superstitions reverence, and it was only from him or from one of his profession that copies could be emigration from the island, he can account for bought. For, mentically, copies made by a layman than reverence, he declares that the work of the that the luminorable incantations of Chaldacan consider has been put to the wolf-that lore were sold in the same way, since vast num miserable, sneaking, pitiable wretch." He illustrates his point by saying that he engaged four alludes, "When I make verses hereafter," exclaimyoung men at Aneiteum Island as boatmen. Theognis, "I shall give a token with the words, nor me on one occasion their practice enabled them | can I sing, and no wonder, for Zeus himself, rain with the tribesmen taken to work on the Queens-land plantations. The three years of labor, and the acquaintance with a world different from the acquaintance with a world different from ter of him than he could become at home. tique paet and he of the Middle Ages were doubtle But it is pretty clear that he carried home the | more jealous of their repute than of their incom ago, when he cast off his clothes as soon as he to think of his own rights aside from the fam which his works gave him. The cynical Martial wearing clothes is spreading. What is more note- Neronian times at Rome is as indifferent towar the islands. It is an absurd dialect in which any modern epigrammatist can be. Yet there is no practically universal. On the most obscure and clams, Mr. Putnam intimates that a part of Mar-remote islet there is sure to be somebody who knows this new tongue.

clams, Mr. Putnam intimates that a part of Mar-remote islet there is sure to be somebody who clams, Mr. Putnam intimates that a part of Mar-remote islet there is sure to be somebody who called blackmail. There was certainly no adequate Though Captain Wawn insists that the business in which he was engaged was honorable, he confesses that it was not without risk. The natives had their own notions of justice. Kidnapping by one ship's company was practically the philosopher appears to have paid no attention

crowded with adventures of this sort. In this respect it is not unlike one of the old-fashioned books of exploration and discovery. On one oca certain dusky chieftain on the flesh of white indecent novels, while it betrays the fastes of the men as an article of diet. Says the author; army, shows also that the trades of bookmaking reat chief at Port Hunter, Duke of York Island, what his opinion was as to the relative merits of what his opinion was as to the relative merits of striction of trade to a smaller number of hands. It fortunate 'bushman' by King Johnny and his facturing, seiling, lending and preservation for Alexandera. In this they were successful. The most beneficial result appears to have been an improve-ment in manuscripts due to official oversight and training. In Rome, however, literature was left, except in the case of a few great poets, to private enterprise. Booksellers' shops began to flourish as the scope of literature widened. They became the meeting-place of authors and of others interested in books. The result was an enormous increase in the number of copyists and a proportionate decreas in the price of single copies of books. Editions were Howe Islands, the massacre was not due to resentment. "I mention this," says Captain Wawn, "because all through my experience of the labor trade it has been the fashion to lay the biame.

Mine. Belloc, one of George Eliot's few intigrates the copies of a single copies of single copies of a single me sense a veiled one. In the first place, none times this widespread buying was, not indiscrim on us for all South Sea Island outrages."

It was shortly after the misfortune of the James Birnie taat Captain Wawn was put in command of the schooner Stanley, of Scottish build, well suited to the weather of the South Sea. Hitherto she had been used merely in the school of the school of the South Sea. Hitherto she had been used merely in the school of the South Sea. Hitherto she had been used merely in the school of the school of the South Sea. Hitherto she had been used merely in the school of the school of the school of the South Sea. Hitherto she had been used merely in the school of the scho sale at Spooner's in the Strand, is very like, but interest to pay on borrowed money," he exclaims, not favorable, and absolutely without any art in "and my boys want their meals every day. If you the arrangement. It is, however, the only real in-dication left to us of the true shape of the head, and of George Ellot's smile and general bearing. In daily life the brow, the blue eyes, and the upper part of the face had a great charm. The lower nothing. It was these impecuations, neely men of half was disproportionately long. Abundant brown genius, a class of which Martial is the most strik-hair framed a countenance which was certainly not ing example, who first saw that what absorbed their en battens, at a like distance apart, divided the in any sense unpleasing, noble in its general outline, whole space into two unequal parts, the after and very sweet and kind in expression. Her height though it were partially repuld by the mere deone, to which there was admission by the outer hatch only, being reserved for females." The vessel was of 115 tons register and her dimensions doubtless had much to do with the number of when she was amused her eyes filled with laughter.
She did not look young when I first saw her, and mer classes mingled with other people who made the parallel between literary labor and other kinds "The effect of her presence-it was peculiarly im- of labor. But property in the results of literary

Bess" musket, and now few of them will look at a gun less serviceable than a repeating rifle, They were quick to learn the difference in weapons. What they looked for was utility, not

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REAL ESTATE.

BUSINESS AT THE EXCHANGES.

The principal feature of interest in the real estate auction market yesterday was the offering, by George R. Read, at the Liberty-st. exchange, of the corner of Beaver and Pearl sts., Nos. 9) and 32 Beaver-st. and Nos. 137, 139 and 141 Pearl-st. This property was the centre of dealings in coffee before the present exchange was formed. The site frontage of 50 feet in Beaver-st., and

before the present exchange was to a charles a frontage of 50 feet in Beaver-st., and 55 in Pearl-st. It was sold for the estate of Charles C. Tober, by whom it was purchased in 1805 for \$50,00. The rights for damages against the elevated road were reserved. The bidding started at \$50,00 and ran up to \$95,500. William M. Martin was the buyer.

At the Trinky sulesroom Solomon De Walltearss offered, for executors, the southeast corner of Houston and Columbia sts., a five-story tenement-house, with a sore, on lot 21,3350. It sold to Leo Hutter for \$20,100. Smyth & Ryan offered, by order of the Supreme Court, in partition, No. 5 Cornellast, a five-story store and flat, lot 25,75. It brought \$18,500 from H. S. McCouter, D. P. Ingraham & Co. offered, in partition, No. 19 West Twenty-fourth-st., a four-story house, on a lot 25,838.9. It was sold to C. B. Curtis for \$37,200. The same auctioneer offered a plot of land in East One-hundred-and-sevency-seventh-st. between Crotona-ave and Parkway, a frame house, on land 109x150. It brought \$5,155 from Frederick Garrison.

Sarah J. Fitzgerald has sold, on private terms, to the Franciscan Fathers, the one-story building Nos, 113, 115 and 117 Baxter-st., plot 75x169, for about \$56,800.

Messes Goldman, Resansky & Co. have sold for Messes and sold of the content of the co

Messrs, Goldman, Rosansky & Co, have sold for Simon, No. 62 Pitt-si., lot 25x109, for \$22,409, and r R. Keyser Nos, 212 and 214 Clinton-st., plot 32x70, r \$22,600. for R. Keyser Nos. 712 and 214 Chiton-St., por St. 105 R. Kunatrick, builder, has sold to John Gerkin No. 1 West Ninety-fifth-St., a handsome four-story American hasement house, terms private. This is one of a row of five dwellings which have been built by Mr. Kilpatrick, and which are cabinet-finished throughout. The entire interior work was made at his well-known factory, No. 42 to 50 West Sixty-seventh-st.

F. Zittel has sold for J. V. D. Card, builder, to L. E. Baidwin, a three-story brick stable for \$38.090, Walter Rusher has sold a five-story flat-house, No. 54 West Ninety-third-st, for about \$40.000. Messrs, Walker & Lawson have sold a three-story high-stoop brownstone front house for about \$25.990.

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